

P24196.A07

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit : 3733

Appl. No. : 10/659,302

Examiner : R. Shaffer

Filed : September 11, 2003

Confirmation No. : 3567

For : ROD FIXING APPARATUS FOR VERTEBRA CONNECTING
MEMBER

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AF
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In response to the Final Official Action dated May 25, 2006, setting forth a three-month shortened statutory period for response to expire on August 25, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection in view of the herein contained remarks.

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.